



Blissymbolics
Communication
Foundation

* gathering
⊕ dissemination
⊗ blissymbolics
x much, many

862 Eglinton Avenue E.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4G 2L1
(416) 425-7835

Volume 1
July 1976

We are pleased to distribute the first issue of the Bulletin -- a medium through which the Foundation hopes to express opinions, give information, share experiences and generally relate BCF activities to all those concerned with the development of Blissymbolics. While a great deal of energy has gone into the formation and evolution of the BCF over the past year, much has yet to go into its further development in the coming year. Some of the people involved in this process include:

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The task of applying Blissymbolics for the use of non-speaking persons, while maintaining the integrity of the system, is both a challenging and rewarding one. Within this context, the BCF endeavours to act in accordance with the terms of the legal agreement arrived at with C.K. Bliss on July 4, 1975. We invite all of you who are working with Blissymbolics to become involved with the BCF in the responsible application of Blissymbolics.

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The preparation, distribution and revision of new and existing instructional materials has been a principal activity of the BCF over the past year. Some explanation of terms and clarification of certain changes in content is required.

Teaching Manual

The "three unit" Teaching Manual (Teaching Guideline, Syntax Supplement and Provisional Dictionary) which has been distributed since last November, in place of the Old Teaching Guideline, now includes a revised edition (July 1976) of the Provisional Dictionary. This new version has been up-dated to correspond to the symbol vocabularies and stamps printed by the BCF in December 1975. The dictionary is designed to meet the immediate needs expressed by symbol instructors and should not be considered as a complete dictionary of Blissymbols; it is only a temporary substitute until a formal version can be compiled and published. The price remains the same: \$2.50 for any of the individual publications and \$8.50 for the group of three.

Displays

The latest version of the Symbol displays (December 1975) incorporates all new symbols up until that time and has been available for purchase since March 1976. Two major changes exist on the 400 and 200 displays. The 400 display now has a grammar block designed by C.K. Bliss which appears in the body of the display. Secondly, all strategy symbols are pulled from the main body of the display and placed in a row at the top of the board. Both changes appearing on the 400 display exist on the 200 display but in a more limited fashion: only a part of the Grammar block and only a few of the strategy symbols. Supplementary optional stamps accompany the new 200 and 400 displays. For those who are using 1974 versions of the 100, 200 and 400 displays, up-dating stamps are available free of charge.

Grammar Block

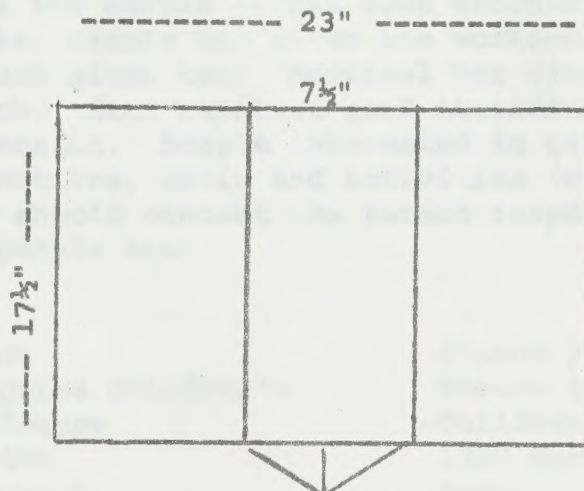
An enlarged version of the grammar block (approximately 8" x 15") is available at a cost of \$2.00. It is felt that the poster size display of these symbols will help the classroom teacher encourage the use of the grammar block as it appears on the individual 400 display.

Colour Coding

Colour coding is the name given to a process whereby coloured letrafilm is applied to a black and white 100, 200 or 400 display in order to provide structure to groups of symbols, thereby assisting with location. It is not a separate item; if ordered along with a display, an additional charge is involved. For those people interested in colour coding their own displays, a suggested colour coding instruction sheet is included in the 1975 Teaching Guideline. The word "suggested" is underlined to stress the flexibility of the colour coding pattern and the importance of each instructor finding the best alternative for any given symbol user.

Portable Folder

Many people are familiar with a listing on the BCF order form called a "portable, laminated folder". This particular item is no longer available. In its place we offer you a strong, more durable alternative simply called a Portable Folding Case.



3 folding panels with clear plastic
overlay to allow insertion of symbols

This model will accommodate individual symbols or full symbol displays (cut in thirds). Portability is achieved when the two outer panels fold one on top of the other over the centre panel. The resulting folder tucks easily under the arm or fits into a carrying bag on the back of a wheelchair. The BCF now has a stock of these folders available for \$7.00 each.

SPECIAL NOTE

All instructional materials produced and distributed by the BCF are copyrighted and, therefore, may not be reproduced without permission from the BCF. Anyone wishing to use symbols in any manuscripts or titles, should submit copy to the BCF, allowing at least one month for them to be authorized and returned.

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION SERVICES

The BCF's second focus of activity over the past year has been various forms of consultative services: workshops, orientation programmes, in-service programmes, support of developing resource centres and individual programmes. Workshop activity included joint BCF-OCCC beginners' workshops in November 1975 and April 1976 and an advanced workshop in May 1976. The latter, which brought together symbol instructors who had participated in the two year symbol evaluation study, provided an opportunity to react to preliminary findings and to share common experiences. Workshops and orientation programmes given by the BCF outside Toronto included those in Pontiac, Michigan; Kalamazoo, Michigan; Dayton, Ohio and West Seneca, New York. The BCF is currently preparing for the first British workshop (Summer School) to be held from July 26th to 31st.

The development and growth of the first three resource centres -- Montreal, Ottawa and Sarnia -- has been another area of interest to the BCF. To date, Sarnia has given one workshop and Ottawa and Montreal have each given two. Montreal has given one in English and one in French. Each reported good attendance and great enthusiasm for further expansion. People interested in gaining information concerning the objectives, goals and activities (workshops, etc.) of each resource centre should contact the person responsible for each programme. These people are:

Anne Warrick
Ottawa Crippled Children's
Treatment Centre
P.O. Box 8469
Ottawa, Ontario

Elaine Jones
Sarnia and District Crippled
Children's Treatment Centre
1240 Murphy Road
Sarnia, Ontario

Keila Waksvik-Hunsinger
Montreal Symbol Co-ordination
Committee
c/o Ecole Victor Dore
1350 rue Cremazie est
Montreal, Quebec

The development of resource centres has afforded the BCF further opportunity for contact with symbol instructors working with a wide range of disabilities in many different settings. Through this exposure, as well as through correspondence, it is becoming apparent that at least three major areas of symbol applicability now exist: the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded and the adult population (e.g. stroke patients). Any person interested in being put in touch with professionals of similar interests, please contact the BCF and we will do our best to supply names and addresses.

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The BCF would like to clearly define the difference between the Newsletter and the Bulletin. The Bulletin focuses on the activities of the BCF and as such is similar to the Teaching Guideline or Syntax Supplement in presenting the position of the BCF. The Newsletter, however, is a collection of articles from many settings, and therefore represents many different points of view. Since the Editor, Barbara Rush, has not always had an abundance of articles to print, we would encourage all people to record some details of their symbol programmes and share their thoughts with others across Canada, the U.S.A. and abroad. To give you some idea of the number of people now expressing interest in Blissymbolics and always ready for further information, here is a breakdown of the BCF mailing list.

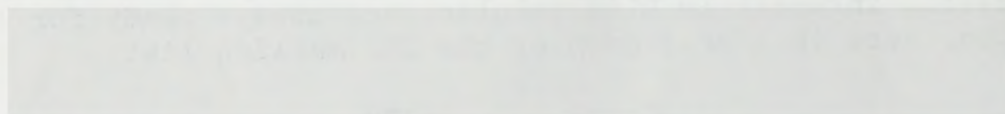
Canada	438
U.S.A.	495
Abroad	61

The 1976-77 Newsletter will consist of three issues (Fall, Winter and Spring) and will be available for a subscription fee of \$5.00. If you are interested in this series, please fill out the attached form. Cheques should be made payable and sent along with the subscription form to: Blissymbolics Communication Foundation, 862 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M4G 2L1. Those who wish to submit articles for print should send these to: Mrs. Barbara Rush, 64 Magnolia Drive, Hamilton, Ontario L9C 5T2.

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EXCITING NEWS !!

The BCF is pleased to share with you an honour recently bestowed upon the original Bliss Project team of the OCCO for their contribution of symbol communication to the field of rehabilitation for the physically disabled. At the May Conference of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled held in Winnipeg, the Readers Digest award was accepted by Mrs. Barb Royds on behalf of Shirley McNaughton. The award of \$500 is to assist in the work of the BCF.



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A N N O U N C E M E N T S

We are sorry about any confusion regarding the purchase of Semantography or Book to Film. Since communication with C.K. Bliss is sometimes difficult, instructions from Australia change from time to time. The announcement that the BCF no longer stocks Bliss publications still stands and, therefore, all orders should be made directly to C.K. Bliss, P.O. Box 222, Coogee, Sydney, 2034, Australia.

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A letter of accreditation is available for those people who have participated in any workshop prior to the establishment of the BCF. Any requests for such a letter should include the date of the workshop for which you wish credit.

The films Mr. Symbol Man and Symbol Boy
are available --

In Canada - National Film Board
550 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec
or
your local NFB or Library

In U.S.A. - Mr. M. Solin, President
Benchmark Films Inc.
145 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. 10510

We would like to draw your attention to the pink coloured sheet announcing the use of symbols with poetry. In co-operation with the BCF, Ann Housden and Wayne Woodman will be exploring another application of Blissymbolics. It's an interesting new dimension and we hope they'll get the support their work deserves.

Many requests for information and materials are still coming to the Ontario Crippled Children's Treatment Centre. While the OCCC supported the original symbol programme it is a treatment centre lacking the resources to handle the great bulk of correspondence now associated with Blissymbolics. In response to this need the BCF, through the co-operation of the OCCC evolved. Therefore all enquiries and requests concerning Blissymbolics should now be directed to the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation, 862 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M4G 2L1.

OF SPECIAL INTERESTBCF Involvement in the Wheelchair Olympics

August 3-11, 1976 will see the gathering of 1700 athletes from 70 different countries in Toronto for a unique set of international games -- the 1976 Olympiad for the Physically Disabled. Expanded this year to include blind and amputee, as well as wheelchair athletes, the 1976 Olympiad will demonstrate to Canadians the significance of sport in rehabilitation of the disabled and show that an individual with a disability can live an almost normal life. BCF involvement entails the design of a functional attractive scarf on which will be printed approximately 250 symbols with French and English wording. As a result of funding from the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, all participants in the Olympiad will be given a scarf with a Blissymbols vocabulary to be used as an international language. An accompanying brochure will explain usage of the scarf. Posters, identical to the scarf design, will be available for display in other locations. This exposure will serve to introduce Blissymbols into the handicapped communities of 70 participating countries. Needless to say, the BCF waits expectantly for the results of this first venture in international symbol communication!

A limited number of scarves and posters will be available for sale through the BCF -- a rare opportunity to own a souvenir of the first international experience with symbols.

N.B. -ORDERS TO BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1976.



FUTURE COMMITMENTS

The indefinite state of our long-term funding makes it impossible to specifically define our programme objectives for 1976-77. At the time this Bulletin goes to press, while our long-term funding remains indefinite, we have continued interim funding from the OCCC. We continue to be hopeful of long-term funding which would enable the BCF to expand resources and functions, but until this has been secured our objectives and activities must be limited. We ask for your continued understanding as we struggle in this transition period.

Given this perspective, the BCF will be maintaining a focus similar to this past year. Instructional materials incorporating the changes outlined in this Bulletin will be available.

Two BCF-OCCC workshops are scheduled for the fall; a Beginners' Workshop the week of November 15th and an Advanced Workshop the week of October 18th. Plans for workshops outside Toronto are in the formative stages and will be announced as they are formalized.

Of special note at this time is the production of a series of visual teaching aids by the National Film Board for the BCF. This series of slides is designed to present, through simple graphic illustrations, the meaning and application of approximately 180 symbols. There are 15 series in this teaching aid set -- each series containing about 50 slides. An accompanying manual will outline the basic purpose and design of this product and serve as a guide for its use in a full symbol programme. Entitled "Say It With Symbols", this teaching aid is scheduled for completion in September. Planning regarding dissemination through loan or purchase is currently underway.

The Handbook for Parents, Instructors and Administrators, resulting from the two year OCCC evaluation study is expected to be available for distribution in the early part of 1977 through the BCF.

Looking forward to our expansion, the BCF is interested in locating professionals with experience in Blissymbolics to work as consultants. The role includes involvement in workshops, orientation and in-service programmes. Consultants would be based in the BCF office in Toronto; however, the job would entail extensive travel. Persons interested in such a position at some time in the future, please forward resumes to: Shirley McNaughton c/o the BCF.

Finally, the Foundation will be exploring the idea of affiliation with the BCF in the form of an "associate membership". Through such an arrangement the BCF would gain a realistic perspective on the number of people actively involved with Blissymbolics who wish to support our objectives. For a nominal fee, associate members could receive certain publications such as the Bulletin, as well as other fringe benefits yet to be determined. A further announcement regarding this subject will be made as details are finalized.

The BCF looks forward to a good response on the ideas and issues raised in this first issue of the Bulletin and takes the opportunity to wish you a happy and rewarding fall in your individual symbol programmes.

DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO POETRY?

WILL YOU SUBSCRIBE TO OURS?

we're wayne and ann
and we've a plan
to circulate our art.
if you agree
with what you see
perhaps you'll play a part.

"SUBSCRIPTION" IS THE ACTIVE WAY
FOR YOU TO HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

we won't send you a magazine,
but for two dollars even, we
will undertake to mail to you -
sometime within a month or two -
our next six "hand-drawn", dated prints

signed:

wayne-ann.

we trust this concept may catch on
that you will want to have wayne's words, drawn
amazingly by ann for your reading
enjoyment (suitable for framing;
unique as gifts).

we're naming
ourselves: the wayne-ann sharing
each others' company company.... daring
you to try something as innovative as this -
with special thanks to B.C.F. and Charles Bliss.
we hope our work will please and thrill
so send us your two dollar bill:
29 Roslin Avenue, Toronto
with your name and address clearly given,
we'll start mailing to you right away...
oh, yes, that's TORONTO - do it today!

wayne-ann

